

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, BU
SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV ON BULGARIAN ECONOMY IN 1976

REF: SOFIA 2784

AT TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR RECEPTION FOR CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, ZHIVKOV--PERHAPS AWARE THAT A NUMBER OF THEM HAD MADE INQUIRIES ABOUT HOW BULGARIA WAS ABLE TO AVOID PRICE INCREASES AND OTHER PROBLEMS PLAGUING OTHER EE COUNTRIES--SAID FLATLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN PRICES DURING 1976 AND RATE OF ECONOMIC EXPANSION WOULD BE MAINTAINED. "I REQUEST YOU TELL YOUR GOVERNMENTS", HE SAID, "THAT THEY SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT BULGARIA." LATER, IN MORE INFORMAL SETTING, HE MADE TWO ADDITIONAL REMARKS ABOUT BULGARIA'S ECONOMY: THAT ABOUT "ONE BILLION LEVA" WORTH OF ADDITIONAL GOODS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO sop UP EXCESS PURCHASING POWER; AND THAT "BULGARIA HAS NO COLONIALIST AMBITIONS, ALTHOUGH IT DOES HAVE ONE COLONY: THE SOVIET UNION." LATTER REMARK IS ONE THAT HE HAS MADE FREQUENTLY TO VISITORS, TO INDICATE THAT BULGARIA OBTAINS RAW MATERIALS CHEAPLY FROM THE USSR AND EXPORTS THERE FINISHED PRODUCTS.

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Message Attributes

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